

## Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

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WILLIAM A. RITSCHE, JR.  
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The Citizen solicits contributions from  
the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—  
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current week must be in hand not later than  
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1906.

## What the Valuations Show.

The increased valuations have affected small real estate properties more seriously than large properties, as some examples taken at random from the assessment books show. The exhibit would seem to contradict the impression that has always prevailed that the small property was under the old law more heavily assessed than the large property. In the examples given the real numbers of the property are not given, so as to avoid identification. Otherwise the record is as it appears on the assessors' books:

Small Properties.	Tax.	P. C.
1800.....	\$500	51.30
1800.....	1,000	10.00
1800.....	1,500	14.75
1800.....	2,000	21.25
1800.....	3,000	45.00
1800.....	4,000	71.75
Large Properties.		
1800.....	\$500	88.00
1800.....	5,000	945
1800.....	54,000	945
1800.....	70,000	1,300
1800.....	106,000	1,900
1800.....	85,000	1,900
1800.....	158,000	2,665

The wide differences in the increased valuations show at once the gross inequality of the former assessments. Where one property is increased 85.8 per cent, and another property 16.7 per cent, the difference in other cases being even more startling, there is indubitable proof that former assessments were made with the grossest carelessness, or with reckless discrimination. The new valuations reveal the injustice and wrong of the former assessed valuations.—Newark Advertiser.

## Windy Valuations.

New York city taxing officials charge up sums ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 of personal tax against people doing business in that city, and this charge is often made without knowledge of the circumstances of the person so taxed. Out of town residents are compelled to go to the tax office in New York and make affidavit that they are not residents of the city and swear off the assessment. The New York taxing office sends notice to tax officials of the place where the man claims residence of the amount of tax sworn off. The taxing officials of this town received some of these notices. One was that of a party claiming residence here who sworn off a personal property assessment of \$40,000 in New York city and another was for \$10,000. Investigation was made and it was found that the \$10,000 was that of a youth residing with his parents and having no property of his own. The other case was that of a new-comer and whose personal property amounted to about \$500. In the returns made to the County Board of Taxation last week the tax officials of Orange reported having received such notices from the New York tax office and promptly slapped them into their duplicate. If the six million increase in Orange is made up of much of such stuff there is not much credence to be attached to the figures.

## The Saloon Issue.

The Democratic party will undoubtedly endeavor to make political capital this fall out of the "bishops' bill." From all accounts there appears to be great dissatisfaction in Newark over the restrictions imposed upon the saloon business by recent legislation.

The German-American element in the city is said to be very much incensed, and threatens vengeance on those responsible for the legislation. At a recent gathering of German-Americans the most emphatic sentiments were expressed on the situation, and a demand was made that candidates for the Legislature place themselves on record as favoring the repeal or modification of the so-called "bishops' bill."

At a meeting in Newark the other evening delegates from the German-American Association of the State adopted a declaration of views embodying a demand for more liberal conditions under the law, and the German-American Central Association of Newark at a recent meeting heard and expressed protest against what was termed "an obnoxious act which deprives the citizen of his personal freedom."

## A Demonstration.

Albert W. Greene, a student in the New York Homeopathic Medical School, gave a demonstration yesterday afternoon at the home of Mrs. F. M. Davis, 14 Orchard street, of the advantages of aluminum cooking utensils. Mr. Greene can be seen at George Souder's, No. 67, Orchard street.

## Bloomfield's Valuations.

The members of the County Board of Taxation will visit Bloomfield Monday and make an inspection of properties here. The large increase in valuations in some other parts of the county, compared with Bloomfield's return to the county board, has caused that body to decide upon making a personal inspection of properties here.

The members of the local board of assessors were summoned before the county board Thursday and made a defense of their valuations. They contended that notwithstanding the large increase in East Orange, Belleville, Glen Ridge and Montclair, that where conditions were at all similar, a comparison with Bloomfield's valuations would show that Bloomfield property was as highly assessed as that of any other place.

The members of the county board did not admit or contradict the contention, but decided to investigate for themselves.

The exact amount of the increase in Glen Ridge, Montclair, Belleville and East Orange will not be determined until the county board has passed upon the valuations as an appellate body. If the appeals made to the county board are anything like in proportion to what they were when the local assessors made a large increase in valuations here in 1905, the county board will be deluged with work.

At the conference on Thursday the county board took exception to the assessment on farm land in Brookdale. The local assessors contended that Brookdale property was assessed for all it would sell for. The county board could not accept that view of it and will go through Brookdale.

The actual effect of the increase in valuations will not be apparent until the tax rates of the various municipalities are announced. In places like East Orange, Montclair and Glen Ridge the tax rate ought to go down proportionately with the increase in valuations. It does not will be demonstrative proof that there is something wrong with the increases.

Orange Protests Against Bloomfield.

Tax Assessor Maximilian M. Mohor of Orange was the authority for the announcement Tuesday that the Orange Board of Assessors proposes to make a formal protest to the County Board of Taxation against the returns sent in by Bloomfield, which adjoins Orange. Orange returns show an increase in valuations of \$6,209,971, or 54 per cent, while Bloomfield only increased 6 per cent, or \$387,902. Wm. F. Poucher, chairman of the East Orange Board of Assessors, who returned from Asbury Park Tuesday, also intimated that East Orange would protest against the returns from Orange. East Orange shows a raise of 91 per cent., or \$18,375,700. Mr. Poucher said Orange's figures were ridiculous. It is figured that East Orange's tax rate will be about \$1.50 this year, against \$2.45 last year and \$2.73 the year previous.

The Orange assessors think they have done about all that can be reasonably expected by adding more than \$6,000,000 to the levy. The Public Service Corporation, which has car barns in East Orange, has been raised, and in Orange the Lackawanna Railroad's tax was raised about \$60,000.

The Orange assessors got after a number of New York men living in Orange who had sworn off taxes in the metropolis, on the ground that their property was in Orange. In one case a man told the Tax Board he was liable for \$500 in personality. The board found he had sworn off \$15,000 in New York, and he will have to pay on that amount. In another case \$30,000 was assessed against a man, that being the amount he had sworn off in New York.

No Chance for Repeal.

It is by no means certain, however, that any action by Essex Assemblymen would result in repeal or radical change of the liquor law. South Jersey and some of the rural counties in other sections of the State are understood to be "dead set" against any change which would rob the state of any of its more important provisions. Senatorial, or geographical, representation gives these counties as much influence in one House of the Legislature as the more populous counties, which have little use for the act as it stands, and therefore there is good ground for the belief that any attempt to repeal the law would be met with a majority opposition in the Upper House. Under these conditions it is the opinion of some politicians that the Essex county delegation need have no fear of giving its assistance to do what it can to meet the wishes of the German-Americans, as nothing could be done to have much effect, at least at the next session of the Legislature.

Meantime the primaries are approaching and the demand for action is becoming more insistent.

## Events Open to the World.

Twenty-one events, open to the world, and eight events for members, with an aggregate cash prize list of \$550, are on the programme for the fiftieth annual Scottish games of the New York Caledonian Club, to be held at Washington Park and Casino, Grand street, between Mepoth and Newtown, Long Island, on Labor Day. Three prizes will be given for each event, to be paid in cash immediately after each event. Competitors can hand in their entries on the day of the games.

## Unconstitutional.

Ever since the "bishops' bill" was passed at the recent session of the Legislature in reference to the liquor traffic, there has been a great deal of discussion in the newspapers and by interested parties about the constitutionality of the fifth section of the bill, whereby the appointing of excise commissioners by the mayors of numerous cities in the State was taken away from them and conferred on the judges of the Common Pleas Courts in the several counties.

The members of the old excise

commissioners by Mr. McGroarty of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., who at the age of about twenty-six was treasurer of Luzerne county, the youngest man ever elected to that important position. At the last meeting of that organization he recited the following poem, among others, as a specimen of what the Celt can do when inspired, and we think no one can quarrel with the beauty of the poem.

It was written by Nora Roper, and was unanimously voted the gem of Mr. McGroarty's selections:

Beauty.

One of the most active spirits in the

foundation of the Celtic Society in Los Angeles, Cal., was John S. McGroarty of

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., who at the age of about

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